

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5796

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, RH, SF, WA
SUBJECT: RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA: BRIEFING OF SECRETARY GENERAL

1. DURING A CALL ON SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM DECEMBER 22, AMBASSADOR YOUNG PROVIDED HIM A GENERAL BRIEFING ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF UK/US NEGOTIATION EFFORT. HE TOLD WALDHEIM THAT ALTHOUGH NOTHING HAS AS YET BEEN MADE PUBLIC, THE US AND UK HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING OF FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS IN MOZAMBIQUE LAST WEEK. THE PRESIDENTS FLATLY CONDEMNED TALKS NOW BEING CONDUCTED BY IAN SMITH IN SALISBURY AND ENDORSED THE ANGO-AMERICAN PLAN AS THE ONLY VIABLE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION. YOUNG POINTED OUT THAT THE MEETING WAS REMARKABLE BECAUSE OF ATTENDANCE BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA AND NETO OF ANGOLA, BOTH OF WHOM WERE TO VARYING DEGREES QUESTIONABLE IN THEIR SUPPORT OF THE UK/US EFFORT. IT WAS NETO, IN FACT, WHO ASKED FOR THE MEETING OF FRONT LINERS. KAUNDA'S AGREEMENT WITH THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING WAS PARTICULARLY NOTABLE AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF HIS MANEUVERING IN SUPPORT OF NKOMO. YOUNG WENT ON TO REPORT THAT WE HAVE NOW TALKED WITH BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN AND HAVE GENERALLY AGREED TO INVITE THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS AND THE PATRIOTIS FRONT TO TALKS IN LONDON, PROBABLY SOMETIME IN JANUARY.

2. WALDHEIM SAID HE HAD HEARD SOME OF THESE PLANS
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IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH UK PERM REP IVOR RICHARD. YOUNG WENT ON TO NOTE THAT IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT NIGERIA, WHICH WILL HOLD THE SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENCY IN JANUARY, IS TALKING OF SCHEDULEING A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL IN MID-JANUARY, POSSIBLE TO DEAL WITH RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA. HE INFORMED THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CURRENT HOPE OF THE WESTERN FIVE CONTACT GROUP THAT PROXIMITY TALKS CAN BE

ORGANIZED ON NAMIBIA IN NEW YORK SOMETIME AROUND MID-JANUARY.

3. WALDHEIM RESPONDED WITH A STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF THE IDEA OF PROXIMITY TALKS. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THE INTENSIVE EFFORT OF THE CONTACT GROUP HAD PREPARED THE GROUND FOR A FINAL EFFORT TO PLAN THE PARTIES TO AGREEMENT ON A SETTLEMENT PACKAGE. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD SWAPO WAS STILL HOLDING FIRM IN ITS REJECTION OF ANY SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS IN NAMIBIA DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. HE SAID HE REMAINED HOPEFUL, HOWEVER, THAT THIS DIFFICULTY WITH SWAPO POSITION COULD BE OVERCOME, POSSIBLE BASED UPON THE THOUGHT ORIGINALLY PUT FORWARD BY SWAPO THAT THEY MIGHT ACCEPT SOME SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES IN NAMIBIA IF THE UN FORCES PRESENT DURING THE TRANSITION WERE AT LEAST DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF SOUTH AFRICA'S. YOUNG COMMENTED THAT TANZANIAN PERM REP SALIM HAD RECENTLY EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THIS SWAPO POSITION WAS BEING MAINTAINED FOR BARGAINING PURPOSES, ON GROUNDS THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE NOT AS YET MADE AN IMPORTANT CONCESSION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. SALIM THOUGHT SWAPO MIGHT RELENT IF THE SOUTH AFRICANS CONCEDE A SUBSTANTIAL POINT IN THEIR POSITION.
YOUNG

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